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PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITIES

STATEMENT FROM AU PANEL OF EMINENT AFRICAN PERSONALITIES

7 December 2009, Nairobi - The Chairman of the AU Panel of Eminent African Personalities, H.E. Kofi Annan, and fellow Panel member Graça Machel have concluded the first day of a two-day programme of meetings in Nairobi.

Mr Annan and Mrs Machel are visiting Nairobi to review recent developments in Kenya and to assess the status of the implementation of the agreements reached during the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation (KNDR).

In the morning, Mr Annan and Mrs Machel met President Mwai Kibaki at his office at Harambee House. During the afternoon, Mr Annan and Mrs Machel held a series of meetings at the Serena Hotel with members of the Committee of Experts, the Donor Coordination Group, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, and representatives of civil society and religious groups.

A spokesman for the Panel, Robert Watkinson, said, "Mr Annan and Mrs Machel have heard today from a wide range of individuals and institutions involved in Kenya's reform process. They are encouraged by a number of positive developments in the last two months, particularly the publication of the Harmonized Draft Constitution and the final report of the National Task Force on Police Reforms. They also welcomed the recent adoption by the National Assembly of the sessional paper on land reform.

"However, their meetings today have also underscored that progress in other crucial areas, including national reconciliation and healing, is still at an early and fragile stage. Mr Annan and Mrs Machel look forward to further meetings with the Dialogue Team and representatives of the business community and women's organisations."

On Monday Mr Annan and Mrs Machel also visited the Soweto settlement in Kibera, Nairobi, to see work that is being undertaken by the Government of Kenya and UN-HABITAT as part of the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP).

A press conference will be held at the conclusion of the Panel's visit, at 5.00pm on Tuesday 8 December in the Amani room at the Serena Hotel. Members of the media who would like to attend are requested to email Beatrice Karanja (details below).

[ENDS]

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